

(d) the findings thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) No report has been received from the Government of Orissa about any starvation death in the State.

(b) to (d) Government of India have requested the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to enquire into the reports of starvation deaths in the State. The Commission has not yet submitted its report in the matter.

Offtake of Foodgrains

4891. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:
SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether in most of the States the offtake of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System in recent months has been far below the allocation;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have lagged behind in the offtake of the allocated foodgrains stating the quantity thereof lifted by each State as against the allocation;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) and (b) In most of the States, the percentage of offtake as compared to allotment during January-March, 1997, has been more than 50%. Only in some States, the offtake of wheat and rice has been below 50%.

The details of these States are given as under :
(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

State	Allotment	Offtake	%
1	2	3	4
Rice			
Bihar	100.50	15.90	15.82
Madhya Pradesh	195.00	83.90	43.03
Punjab	4.50	0.40	8.89
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.50	0.10	6.67
Daman & Diu	1.80	0.50	27.78

1	2	3	4
Wheat			
J & K	90.00	36.00	40.00
Sikkim	1.80	0.80	44.44
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.75	0.00	0.00

(c) and (d) Allotments from Central Pool are only supplementary to open market availability, and are managed out of the stocks in the Central Pool which from only 15-20% of the total quantity of foodgrains procured in the country. As such, offtake of foodgrains (wheat and rice) under PDS depends mainly upon the seasonal availability of these commodities in the open market in any State. During the procurement season of wheat and rice, offtake of these commodities generally falls in the States where these commodities are produced. Sometimes, due to some operational problems, there might be shortage of stocks in a particular State and whenever any report to this effect is received either from State or elsewhere, immediate action is taken by the Government to make available the stocks at the required place. Also, whenever any request from the State Government for extension of validity period for lifting the unlifted quantity of PDS foodgrains is received, it is generally considered favourably.

[Translation]

Pollution from International Hotels

4892. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the proposal for setting up of any authority to ascertain the seriousness of pollution caused due to International Hotel in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this authority has since been set up and submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) In compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated September 13, 1996 the Central Government has constituted the Environmental Impact Assessment Authority for National Capital Region under Section 3 (3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide Gazette Notification dated October 9, 1996. The composition of the authority is below:

- Justice R.K. Shukla,
Retd. Judge of Allahabad High Court.

Chairman